

providing a digester to facilitate a cooking reaction, the digester having at least one screen girdle section disposed therein, the digester having a first cooking zone and a second cooking zone;
providing a total amount of cooking liquor required for the cooking reaction;
transporting the fiber material and the transport fluid to the impregnation zone;
heating and impregnating the fiber material disposed in the impregnation zone;
transferring the heated and impregnated fiber material from the impregnation zone to the first cooking zone;
supplying a first portion of the total amount of the cooking liquor to the impregnation zone and the first cooking zone;
obtaining a first effective alkali concentration in the first cooking zone;
passing the fiber material and the cooking liquor through the first cooking zone; and
supplying a second portion of the total amount of the cooking liquor to the second cooking zone to obtain a second effective alkali concentration in the second cooking zone, the second alkali concentration being between about 15 grams/liter and about 50 grams/liter greater than the first effective alkali concentration.

REMARKS

Withdrawal of the finality of the previous Official Action dated March 7, 2001 is noted with appreciation.

The Examiner's acknowledgment that the original grant of the '856 patent was received is also appreciated.

By way of the amendment instructions presented herewith, new claim 47 has been amended so as to recite that the second alkali concentration being between about 15 grams/liter and about 50 grams/liter greater than the first effective alkali

concentration. Support for this change can be found in the original patent '856 at those passages identified by the Examiner in paragraph 4 on page 4 of the subject Official Action. Hence, in view of the amendment to claim 47, it is suggested that the rejections advanced under 35 USC §§112 and 251 have been rendered moot.

With regard to the objection raised under 37 CFR §1.172(a), there is attached hereto a copy of a name change certificate which is being filed concurrently herewith for recordation in the subject reissue application and which confirms that the original name of the assignee Ahlstrom Machinery Inc. has officially been changed to Andritz-Ahlstrom Inc. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore in order.

The only issue remaining to be resolved in this application is the allegation that claims 47-53 improperly recapture claimed subject matter from the original patent. In this regard, the Examiner asserts that claim 16 of the original '856 patent was amended during prosecution to include the limitation in step (c) regarding the effective alkali (EA) concentration of the **spent** cooking liquor from the **second cook zone**. Applicant suggests that the EA concentrations referenced by the Examiner to support this rejection are not pertinent at all to the subject matter claimed by new claim 47. Specifically, claim 47 and claims 48-53 dependent thereon do not address the EA concentration of any **spent** cooking liquors. Instead, independent claim 47 recites the difference in the EA concentration between the **cooking** liquors **at the beginning of the first and second cooking zones**. As such, the recitation of the difference in such EA concentration is not recapturing at all any subject matter that was cancelled from the original '856 patent. Simply put, the rejection on the basis of an alleged improper "recapture" has been based on an erroneous "apples to oranges" comparison of the claimed subject matter in the original '856 patent and that presented herewith by virtue of independent claim 47.

The amendments, remarks and evidence presented during prosecution to date demonstrate that all claims now pending in this reissue application are in condition for prompt allowance. Such favorable action is therefore solicited.

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Should any small matter remain outstanding, however, the Examiner is again encouraged to telephone the applicant's undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the necessity of an additional written action and reply.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX I

**Claim Status Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(b)(2)(ii) and Marked-Up
Version of Amended Claim 47**

Patent Claims 1-21 remain unamended and pending.

Claim 47 remains pending and is amended as follows:

47. (AMENDED) A method for producing pulp, comprising the steps of:
 providing a fiber material, a transport liquid and an impregnation zone;
 providing a digester to facilitate a cooking reaction, the digester having at
 least one screen girdle section disposed therein, the digester
 having a first cooking zone and a second cooking zone;
 providing a total amount of cooking liquor required for the cooking
 reaction;
 transporting the fiber material and the transport fluid to the impregnation
 zone;
 heating and impregnating the fiber material disposed in the impregnation
 zone;
 transferring the heated and impregnated fiber material from the
 impregnation zone to the first cooking zone;
 supplying a first portion of the total amount of the cooking liquor to the
 impregnation zone and the first cooking zone;
 obtaining a first effective alkali concentration in the first cooking zone;
 passing the fiber material and the cooking liquor through the first cooking
 zone; and
 supplying a second portion of the total amount of the cooking liquor to the
 second cooking zone to obtain a second effective alkali
 concentration in the second cooking zone, the second alkali
 concentration being between about 15 grams/liter and about [60] 50
 grams/liter greater than the first effective alkali concentration.

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New Claims 48-53 remain unamended and pending.